



DEPLETED BULLDOGS KO'D IN FIVE INNINGS BY CUBS 12-2



LARAMIE PARK, SKOKIE, Saturday, May 24) The Skokie Indians Walton Bulldogs returned to the unfriendly confines of Laramie Park on May 24th missing four of their regular players and held off the Edge brook Sauganash Cubs for five innings before tumbling 12-2. This is the second straight night game loss at Laramie Park.

The Cubs scratched out two unearned runs in the top of the first inning. With bases second and third occupied and two outs it appeared that starting pitcher J.Berry would escape, but a short fly ball was misplayed by the Bulldogs' right fielder and two runs crossed the plate. An inning-ending called strikeout prevented any further damage.

In the bottom of the first inning, J.Amato, who was taking over catching duties due to the unavailability of J.Cowen, M.Jakob and S.Solger, rapped a sinking line drive to left, but it was nabbed by the leftfielder at ankle level.

L.Hellman walked after Amato's effort and J.Froberg drew a free pass after Berry's ground out to second. Rejuvenated C.Mathew smashed a single, scoring Hellman and sending Froberg to third. With two out and men on second and third, the Bulldogs had a chance to tie or take the lead but the next batter watched strike three sail across the plate.

The Cubs started off the second inning with a bang as the leadoff batter doubled and the next batter singled to drive in the third Cub run of the evening. With one out the Cubs got another run when the Bulldogs' third baseman mentally erred on a grounder when he attempted to throw out the runner streaking from third to home. The beneficiary of this play was rubbed out when he attempted to steal second.

The Bulldogs were retired in order despite the leadoff walk coaxed by J.Leonard, a reserve call up who played a great game in his introduction to Pony League baseball. Leonard was gunned down at second base on a steal attempt and the next two Bulldogs were retired by strikeout. At the end of two innings the score was 4-1

in favor of the Cubs.

The Cubs did not score in the third inning. The Bulldogs threatened to score in their half of the inning when with two outs Berry singled and Froberg drew his second straight walk. The next batter found himself with teammates on second and third but he was unable to drive them home.

The first two Cubs to bat in the fourth inning were retired on a pop out to Schwartz at second and a grounder to pitcher Berry. But the next batter doubled and came home on a single before a strike out ended the inning.

The Bulldogs attempted to manufacture some runs from the bottom of their depleted batting order. Schwartz and Leonard drew walks. Reserve call up B.Levine, who played well in his first Pony League game, singled to score Schwartz. The rally was held to one run though thanks to a strikeout, a fielder's choice and a screaming hot line drive of the bat of Hellman that was squeezed by the Cubs' first baseman to end the inning.

The Cubs' fifth inning began with a strikeout and ended with a strike out. In between, however, nine batters came to the plate and reached base thanks to four base hits, three Bulldog-fielding errors and a fielder's choice. At the end of four and one half innings the Cubs had expanded their lead to 12-2.

Needing to score one run to avoid losing by slaughter rule, the first two batters up for the Bulldogs in their half of the fifth were retired. Mathew drew a walk and had scampered all the way to third by the time Schwartz was plunked on the arm by a 2-2 pitch. But Mathew did not get any closer to home as the next Bulldog batter was struck out.

The 12-2 pasting was the worst defeat of the season for the Bulldogs, who continued their fielding slump. The loss was only mitigated slightly by knowing that four of the senior Bulldogs were absent from the team. And the call up reserves, Leonard and Levine, were a bright spot reaching base three of the five times they came up to bat.